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RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Written statement*/ submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 January 2001]

*/ This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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ENG

1. Humanity throughout its complex and active existence has been a witness to many troubles and events, but human history apart from being full of turmoil has always been in the mysterious pursuit of the discovery of truth. The present era, at times seems to threaten the existence of humanity with mental and spiritual turmoil, nevertheless the search for the meaning of truth of creation still has the whole of humanity under its influence. Today the screams of the truth, justice, peace and freedom seekers can be heard throughout society and science.
This phenomenon in itself shows the urgency for the development of qualities and humanitarian activities. Meanwhile, children have great significance as the main assets of creation and the spiritual survival of humanity. In reality children are potential creatures for the survival or the annihilation of the human race. They are white plaques on which you can write some of the most beautiful humanitarian poetry or pollute them with the vilest and most ugly words. On this basis the responsibility of the whole of humanity in the international and social levels should be considered very heavy. It is very important to know that in this International Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations, more than ever before to recognize the importance of social dialogues and actions as a single human family to develop our efforts for our children - the creators of our future.

2. Child labour is one of the clearest displays of the abuse of children's rights. The exploitation of children for profit has dominant roots in poverty. Poverty here isn't just economic poverty, but cultural poverty is the basis for the professional exploitation of children. Financial poverty alongside mental poverty are the key factors in the profiteers who exploit children for their own gains. Some children who are victims of family abuse also fall in the trap of these exploiters. On 17 June 1999, when the member states of the ILO unanimously voted to adopt Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, it was the commitment of the world community to stop the suffering of millions of children. It was a recognition that ending the commercial exploitation of children must be one of humanity's top priorities. It was accepted as a cause that demands immediate attention and immediate action.

3. The deprivation of children from elementary education is one of the most serious realities of the negligence of their rights. Today having elementary education is a serious necessity in the continuation of the survival and growth of human culture, on these basis children are in search of better understanding of their environment. Over 125 million children are denied the right to school education and may never get an opportunity to learn reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Right to education is a basic right and we call on governments to promote the political, social and economic conditions that are required for the realization of the right to education in all nations, for the achievement of equal educational opportunities for all, for the expansion of public educational services and for the improvement of their quality

4. Any clean soul will accept that prostitution and the use of children in pornography is one of the most visible crimes against human dignity. Today more than ever before opportunists and profiteers have targeted the souls of children to corrupt for their gains and with all their might they try to destroy the innocence in children. The full international and governmental cooperation is the only solution to this tragedy. Prostitution and trafficking in children not only endangers social security but it endangers the whole world in its continued existence. People who participate in these despicable activities are themselves sick who try to infect innocent children with their sickness, so that the future human is a corrupt human one without morals and

manners. On this basis humanity has an obligation to combat this evil phenomenon, so that while strengthening the ethical institutions and to protect them.

5. The international community in its efforts has had some success in the realization of children's rights. But some of these successes have encountered defeat. Some of the most important reasons of these failures are not understanding or ignoring local characteristics, not benefiting properly from national and social cooperation not following through and ineffective actions, the weakness in corrective organization and training, and finally the non-existence in national follow-up and assessment mechanisms which have jurisdiction and legal. This is why for the realization of the above mentioned points effectively new plans must be drawn and an extra sensitive approach must take place to solve these problems.

6. Unfortunately every year many children lose their lives from exploding anti-personnel mines or are maimed. These children are the victims of countries where there was war and the authorities never cleared up the minefields. Although there is a great importance in resolving this and there have been many international conventions and treaties, there are still countries who do not give importance and the urgency in clearing up the mine-fields. It is necessary for everyone to unite in the cooperation to resolve this in particular some countries who have in their ossession maps of mine-fields in the territories they used to occupy who refuse to give the maps to the countries concerned. These are subjects that must be pursued till a positive solution is achieved. Also the creation of an information and census center is one of the international suggestions, which would be very effective. At the same time plans for financial aid for the clearing of the minefields and medical and social help for the victims of mines must continue.

7. The engagement of children as child soldiers in the armies by giving them very basic military training and sending them to fronts to face the enemy is an repugnant for everybody, however at least 300000 children are currently participating in armed conflicts around the world, and tens of thousands more are legally recruited members of armed forces and could be sent into combat at any time. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts which was adopted by resolution A-RES-54-263 of 25 May 2000 at the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations was a great move. It is hoped that the countries become a party to the Convention as soon as possible before the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children so as it enters into force during the year 2001.

8. Possibly many of the intellectuals of today's world that protecting the children is the best way for human civilization to fight any kind of upheaval and to reach genuine peace and calm. Islam is the last God-given religion of this planet it has clearly and kindly mentioned other religions of the world. Islam pays great attention to the munificence and greatness of man over all other things. This is why the importance of the child is greatly stressed. Almost all the main and secondary scribes of the Islamic religion have set aside important noticeable sections in the importance of children, their up bringing and education and the necessity to set aside great finances for the mental and physical health of the children. It is enough to say that the study of the Islamic faith will show that it is a manual and a guidebook in how to bring up our children for a better world.

9. Governments are governments. This sentence has many meanings. It doesn't solely mean that governments are separate from nations. In most instances, we observe that governments do not get involved with the tiny strands of the hidden society. The truth lies in the creation of cooperation between civil, non-governmental and governmental institutions; this will be a great potential for the solution of children's problems. People are usually clever. Because they distance themselves from many previously given equations of their governments. Especially the intelligence of humanity is influenced greatly when the human sentiments are used as a substratum for the fate of humanity. The subject of children and the attendance to their legal rights and problem is one of the activities that many people like to move toward and protect the children. On this basis, non-governmental organizations have a great capacity and tolerance to help. The important point to note is that government organizations must increase their capacity to work with people. NGOs do not have the usual rules and regulations of governments, but they have their own rules and regulations on how to approach incidents and happenings, and even in most cases they are a very effective help. What is important is this that Government organizations have an obligation to understand the people and cooperate with them. We mustn't forget that these people (NGOs) are the real parents of the children, and must work with them wisely for the rights of children. Unfortunately the luster and power of governments overshadows the hard work NGOs are trying to do and things have to change drastically.

10. We in the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) have a serious and fundamental belief. Children's Rights Activists must know time is short. If we get lost in the corridors of administration and budgeting we will never reach our goals and may even be harmful to the urgent needs and attention of these children. It may even be harmful for these children, and cause irreparable damage to the world body. Not a day goes by that we don't worry about the children or better to say "the future makers"! Sadly it seems speed at which a progress is being made for them isn't great enough. Let us look at these problems realistically. Many of these bright ideas and solutions are not working. Let's discard our ineffective plans, and set in motion ideas and plans that have should quick and effective success. This act will unite us worldwide to help children. Just as we rush to inoculate our children against diseases and wait to see the result, let us rush to help the children and then witness positive results from our efforts. That is the only time we can trust and maintain our successes. We must embrace each nations culture from the bottom of our hearts and not just on the outside. We must understand the important differences of humanity. The embrace of all cultures of the world will help us to protect the children form all the evils that we fear may harm them. Longing for that day to come!